

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1 This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

2 **Listing of Claims:**

3           1. (currently amended) A system for allocating resources to enable provision  
4 of different levels of service for different users of a network having a plurality of nodes at which  
5 routers are placed to direct information along various paths, the plurality of nodes including a  
6 first node, the system comprising:

7                 a first allocation of resources at a node for the plurality of nodes, the first  
8 allocation being made by a first management system external to the node plurality of nodes that  
9 manages at least part of the network; and

10                 a second allocation of resources for at the first node, the second allocation being a  
11 local allocation, the second allocation being made by a second management system having a  
12 limited capability compared to the first management system and usable by the first node in  
13 accordance with priorities determined at the node.

1           2. (original) A system as in claim 1 further comprising a flow control table  
2 at the node operating under control of the second management system for storing entries which  
3 each include:

4                 source addresses representative of at least one source of information arriving at  
5 the input port;

6                 destination addresses representative of at least one of the destinations to which the  
7 arriving information is to be sent from the output port;

8                 priority information for each address consisting of a capability of at least two  
9 different priorities for controlling the forwarding of information arriving from the source to the  
10 destination; and

11                 wherein with the priority information is changeable at the node without reference  
12 to the first management system.

1               3. (currently amended) A system as in claim 2 wherein the ~~router~~ system  
2 includes a router for switching information and a controller coupled to the router for storing the  
3 flow control table and controlling the router in response thereto.

1               4. (previously presented) A system as in claim 3 wherein the priority  
2 information includes default priority information used to control information which does not  
3 otherwise have an entry in the flow control table.

1               5. (original) A system as in claim 3 wherein the router has a capacity and  
2 not all of the capability of the router is allocated by the controller.

1               6. (original) A system as in claim 5 wherein the unallocated portion of the  
2 capacity is reserved for use as a virtual private network.

1               7. (original) A system as in claim 6 wherein the controller manages the flow  
2 control table using two application program interfaces.

1               8. (original) A system as in claim 7 wherein the applications program  
2 interfaces include a first one for managing default priority information for a longer term usage,  
3 and a second one for managing the remaining entries of the flow control table for a shorter term  
4 usage.

1               9. (original) A system as in claim 8 wherein the first and second applications  
2 program interfaces are under control of a network management system.

1               10. (original) A system as in claim 9 wherein the network management  
2 system is controlled by a network service provider.

1               11. (original) A system as in claim 9 wherein the first applications program  
2 interface is controlled by a network service provider and the second applications program  
3 interface is controlled by a provider of the source of information.

1               12. (original) A system as in claim 11 wherein the controller manages the  
2 flow control table using a single applications program interface.

1               13. (original) A system as in claim 12 wherein the applications program  
2 interface manages default priority information for longer term usage and manages the remaining  
3 entries of the flow control table for shorter term usage.

1               14. (currently amended) In a system for dynamically allocating resources to  
2 enable provision of different levels of service for different users of a network having nodes at  
3 which routers are placed to direct information along various paths, a method comprising:

4               allocating a first level of service from a remote source for a plurality of nodes, the  
5 plurality of nodes including a first node;

6               allocating a second level of service from a local source for the first node, the  
7 second level of service using resources available from the first level of service;

8               receiving information at an input port from a source;

9               storing in a flow control table entries which include source addresses  
10 representative of a source of information arriving at the input port, destination addresses  
11 representative of a destination to which the arriving information is to be sent, and priority  
12 information for each source address, which priority information includes at least two different  
13 priorities; and

14               forwarding information arriving from the source to the destination address with a  
15 priority based upon the priority information in the flow control table.

1               15. (original) A method as in claim 14 wherein the method further comprises  
2 using a controller coupled to the router to store the flow control table and controlling the router  
3 in response thereto.

1               16. (original) A method as in claim 15 wherein the method further comprises  
2 using default priority information to control arriving information which does not otherwise have  
3 an entry in the flow control table.

1           17. (original) A method as in claim 16 wherein the router has a capacity; and  
2       the method comprises using the controller to allocate less than all of the capacity of the router.

1           18. (original) A method as in claim 17 wherein the method further comprises  
2       reserving unallocated capacity of the router for use as a virtual private network.

1           19. (original) A method as in claim 18 wherein the method further comprises  
2       using applications program interfaces to allow the controller to manage the flow control table.

1           20. (original) A method as in claim 19 wherein method further comprises  
2       using a first applications program interface to manage default priority information for longer  
3       term usage, and using a second applications program interface to manage remaining entries of  
4       the flow control table for shorter term usage.

1           21. (original) A method as in claim 20 further comprising using a network  
2       management system to control the first and second applications program interfaces.

1           22. (original) A method as in claim 21 further comprising using a network  
2       service provider to control the network management system.

1           23. (original) A method as in claim 22 further comprising using a network  
2       service provider to control the first applications program interface and using a provider of the  
3       source of information to control the second applications program interface.

1           24. (original) A method as in claim 23 further comprising using a single  
2       applications program interface to manage the flow control table

1           25. (original) A method as in claim 24 further comprising using the  
2       applications program interface to manages default priority information for longer term usage and  
3       using the remaining entries of the flow control table to manage for shorter term usage.